

ERRORS IN SPELLING OF LATIN NAMES OF TAXA BELONGING TO MESOTAENIACEAE (CONJUGATOPHYCEAE)

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ABSTRACT - Attention has been paid to the correct spelling of some specific and infraspecific epithets which were formed in disagreement with the rules of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (1988).

RÉSUMÉ - L'attention a été portée sur l'orthographe correcte d'épithètes spécifiques et infraspecifics qui ont été formées en désaccord avec les règles du Code International de la Nomenclature (Botanique) - 1988.

KEY WORDS : Mesotaeniaceae, taxonomy.

Many errors have been made in the present spelling of both specific and infraspecific epithets in the names of taxa of the family Mesotaeniaceae. On one hand these errors may result from changes made in the original spelling due either to typographic errors or to errors made by subsequent authors. On the other hand, they may also result from orthographic errors in the epithet from the very beginning. The most frequent errors result from grammatical inconsistency of an adjective with the gender of the generic name. Examples of some incorrectly spelled epithets are given below.

• *Mesotaenium chlamydosporum* var. *curcupalensis* (Wille) W. Krieg. - There are two mistakes in the spelling of the epithet of this variety. One of them was made by Wille (1884) who described this taxon as *Mesotaenium chlamydosporium* β *Archeri* f. *curupalensis* (the epithet "*curupalensis*" derives from the Argentine mountain range - Sierra Curumalon) using ■ inappropriate - feminine or masculine gender, whereas the generic name "*Mesotaenium*" is neuter. The second mistake was made by Krieger (1933). While changing the rank of the taxon, he cited the epithet erroneously ("*curcupalensis*" instead of "*curupalensis*"). According to the instructions of ICBN, Art. 24.2 and 73.1 the name of the variety should be cited as *Mesotaenium chlamydosporum* var. *curupalense* (Wille) W. Krieger 1933.

• *Netrium digitus* var. *ventricosum* (Lagerh.) Lagerh. - The basionym of the name was validly published ■ *Penium digitus* (Ehrenb.) Ralfs β *ventriosum* Lagerheim in Wittrock *et al.* (1897). In 1903, the same author transferred the taxon to the genus "*Netrium*", maintaining its varietal rank (still appropriate today) and its original spelling. Huber-Pestalozzi (1926) changed the spelling of the epithet "*ventricosa*" (using an

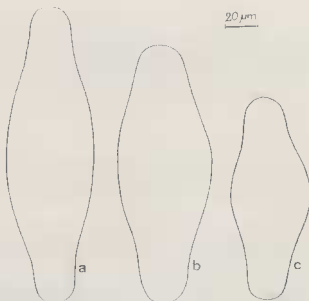


Fig. 1: *Netrium digitus* var. *ventriosum* (Lagerh.) Lagerh. - after Lagerheim (1897) as *Pentium digitus* β *ventriosum* (iconotypus).

incorrect grammatical gender - the generic name "*Netrium*" is neuter and not feminine). Since then, the varietal epithet has been spelled "*ventricosum*" in many papers and monographs (e.g. Gutwinski, 1909; Beck-Mannagetta, 1929, 1931; Krieger, 1933; Kosinskaja, 1952; Lhotsky *et al.*, 1974; Messikommer, 1976). The original epithet "*ventriosum*" and the altered "*ventricosum*" refer to the shape of the central part of the algal cell. They are best regarded as variant spellings of the same word, although they have a slightly different meaning and perhaps linguistic origin. The adjective "*ventriosus*" derives from "*venter, ventris*" - (belly) by addition of the suffix "*osus*" - (implying a fully developed feature) and means "with a permanent belly", or having a marked bulge". This describes an important diagnostic feature of the algal variety: the well-marked central bulge extending over a considerable position of the cell length (Fig. 1). The adjective "*ventricosus*" means "tumid, inflated", and is a neologism widely used in botanical latin. Unlike "*ventriosus*", it does not imply a belly-shaped central bulge, which is the most important diagnostic feature of this variety. Lagerheim's choice of the epithet "*ventriosum*" was therefore no doubt deliberate. The spelling "*ventricosum*" must at any rate be rejected, and the correct original spelling "*ventriosum*" retained, under Art. 73.1 of the Code (Greuter *et al.*, 1988). The name of the variety should be cited as *Netrium digitus* var. *ventriosum* (Lagerh.) Lagerh. 1903.

• The specific epithet of *Mesotaenium kramstai* Lemmermann 1896 should be corrected to *Mesotaenium kramstae* since it was formed from the name of the collector - Mr R. Kramsta (cf. Art. 73.10, Rec. 73C.1.(a))

There are some problems in determining the correct spelling of epithets of the genus "*Cylindrocystis*." It is treated by some authors as feminine and by others as

neuter. This results from the fact that this gender name, published by Meneghini (1838), was used without indication of gender (the first publication of the name "*Cylindrocystis*" is invalid since it was before the starting point of the group 1.1.1848 - ICBN, Art. 13.1(e)). The valid publication of the name is due to De Bary (1858) who chose the feminine gender by writing - "*Cylindrocystis crassa*"; this choice must be accepted ICBN, Art. 76.3). Therefore, the spelling of the following epithets treated as neuter should be changed in accordance with Art. 24.2 of Code: *Cylindrocystis brebissonii* var. *punctisporum* M. Watanabe 1979 must read "*punctispora*" (f); *Cylindrocystis crassa* var. *itirapinense* Bicudo 1969 should be changed to "*itirapinensis*" (f).

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